

*“Don’t disregard good kamma, thinking,
‘It won’t come back to me!’
With dripping drops of water
Even a large water basin is filled.
Little by little,
A wise person is filled with good kamma.”*

*The Buddha
Dhp 122*

News from Vimutti Monastery

Luang Por Piak’s Visit

Luang Por Piak arrived from Thailand on April 19, accompanied by one of his leading disciples, Ajahn Isara, Ajahn Dhirapanyo, who will assist with translation, and be an attendant. On the previous day, Ajahn Khemavaro and Ven. Pasadiko arrived from Wat Buddha Dhamma in Australia, bringing the monastic total to seven. Preparations for the Easter retreat are on schedule with 60 people planning to be in attendance. Luang Por will be at Vimutti until April 30th, and in addition to the retreat, Luang Por is planning to give talks in Auckland and meet with monastics from other traditions. Luang Por is one of the most respected Buddhist masters in Thailand, so we highly recommend meeting this very special realised being.

Monastery closed April 22-25 during retreat

Please be aware that during Luang Por Piak’s retreat, Vimutti Monastery will be closed to daily visitors. In order to provide a suitably tranquil environment for those who are diligently practicing meditation, the gates will be closed from Friday morning until Monday afternoon.

Shazam Workshop

On March 24,25 Ajahn Chandako teamed with Dr. Bruce Lipton for a weekend of thought provoking and practical sharing of ideas and perspectives. The workshop centered around the largely untapped potential of refined human consciousness and its implications for healing the body, producing happiness and freeing us from

unconscious behavioural limitations. While Bruce's thorough, and thoroughly entertaining, presentation offered much clinical data from the scientific perspective, Ajahn Chandako spoke from the traditional Buddhist understanding of the mind. Much of the workshop was a spontaneous dialogue between Bruce and Ajahn that incorporated questions from the audience. To balance the inspiring theory, Ajahn led sessions of guided meditations, and the 75 people in attendance expressed much gratitude for this unique event.

Tudong

Venerable Mudito set off on Tudong around the Coromandel peninsula in March. Leaving the monastery on foot, he found much joy in walking through the New Zealand landscape. Ajahn Chandako and Matt did a short Tudong during the same period of time in Northland.

Vihara Upgrade

There will be a working bee on May 7 to prepare the Vihara for the Vesak Day of practice and ceremonies. As part of the effort to spruce up the Auckland Buddhist Vihara, new carpeting and chairs have been added downstairs. We are now looking for people knowledgeable about kitchen cabinets, cupboards and interior decorating to offer information for the next step. We have some Buddhist paintings that could be used, but they are currently only a roll of canvas. We are looking for anyone skilled in mounting the canvas artwork on a wooden structure and framing it properly.

What Is Buddhism?

By Ajahn Chandako

The significantly modified third edition of this concise introduction to the teachings of the Buddha has now been completed.

To download, click on the following link

[What Is Buddhism?](#)

Satipathana Retreat Talks

The talks from Ajahn Chandako's retreat on Satipatthana are now available on line. Anumodana to George who made this possible.

[Satipatthana Retreat](#)

Vimutti Stupa Update

Stage One Near Completion

The large square base and octagon pedestals for the stupa are nearly complete. The Buddha statues from Indonesia are due to arrive next week. The next stage will be enshrining the Buddha statues and Tipitaka and building the main body of the stupa around them.

The large, casket sized, box containing the personal articles was carefully packed by the Sangha. Amazingly, all the hundreds of items fit inside just perfectly with almost no space remaining. The box was then transported to a welding company who thoroughly sealed the top for the next foreseeable hundred years or so, and the extremely heavy box was then lifted into the stupa site suspended from the hydraulic arm of an excavator. There was a concrete block box already prepared, and once inside, the top was cemented over with a thick layer of concrete. One thing is for sure: that box is not going anywhere soon. It is difficult to imagine when the box might ever again see the light of day or what type of society would exist to open it, inspect the items and appreciate the care and devotion with which they were placed.

If you have a Buddha statue that you would like to include within the stupa, you are welcome to bring it to Vimutti Monastery.

Hierarchy of the items to be enshrined within the stupa

The items enshrined will be ordered with a clear reverence for height and level of significance. The relics themselves will be placed in the square section, known as the harmika, near the top of the stupa. Directly below them, in the bell shaped section known as the anda, will be the Pali canon, the Tipitaka. In this area there will also be four large Buddha statues, numerous smaller ones, and many sacred objects and items of psychic potency. All these would still be above the waist level of the people circumambulating. In the square base, below foot level, but directly underneath the stupa, would be the box containing personal items. In this way, no one would actually be circumambulating the personal items, but they would be respectfully

tucked into a protected space below the level where people are worshipping or paying respect.

**Ceremony for Enshrining the Tipitaka and Buddha Images
Saturday May 21, 3:00pm**

Just after the full moon of May, Wesak or Visakha Puja, we plan to have the ceremony for enshrining the Tipitaka in the Stupa. These are the teachings of the Buddha that have been preserved in the Pali Canon, the oldest and most historically reliable account of what the Buddha taught. Both Pali and English versions will be included. On that day we will also be enshrining Buddha statues, the sacred central pole, and other sacred scripts and items.

**For complete details, background and architectural sketches,
please see**

[The Vimutti Stupa](#)

Meditation Retreats

**Easter Retreat with Luang Por Piak
Thursday evening, April 21 to Monday, April 25**

Held at: Vimutti Buddhist Monastery, Bombay

Luang Por Piak will be staying at Vimutti Monastery April 19-30. In addition to the Easter Retreat, he will give a public talk at the Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Road, at 7:30 pm, Friday, April 29. As this is the first time Luang Por Piak has taught in the West, we consider it a rare opportunity and great honour.

One World, One Truth

Saturday May 7- Saturday May 14

Taught by Ajahn Chandako and Ven. Nawang Lhatso

In this rare and uniquely collaborative meditation retreat, these two Sangha members from the Theravada and Vajrayana traditions will

spend a week exploring and discussing the common ground and differences between these two ancient ways of practice and how they manifest in the melting pot of contemporary Western Buddhism. As with previous retreats, it will be conducted in silence with thorough meditation instruction and guidance. Ven. Lhatso is a New Zealand-born nun who ordained in the Tibetan tradition in 2008. The setting for the retreat will be the beautiful hills and lush bush of Te Moata.

Held at: Te Moata Retreat Centre

Registration: contact Te Moata

http://temoata.org/Te_Moata/Registration.html

Lake Cabin and Forest Retreat

Saturday June 18- Sunday June 26

Taught by Ajahn Chandako

This year would be the third retreat held at the remote and tranquil Tendall lake cabin. This is an opportunity to experience teachings from the forest tradition in the heart of the forest. Conditions are simple as we live and practice as part of the surrounding natural environment.

Held at: Northern Minnesota, USA

Registration: Contact Common Ground Meditation Center, Mpls.

Dana

All retreats and teachings held at Vimutti Buddhist Monastery are offered on a 'dana' basis. Dana is Pali for 'generosity'. Offering teachings freely is a vital principle to uphold. This system of mutual generosity means that there are no registration fees: no charge for the facilities, the food, the management, caretaking, accommodation or the teaching. To engage wisely with a system of dana means that instead of an attitude of paying for goods and services, a retreatant makes good kamma (merit or *punna*) by donating whatever amount feels right: neither too much nor too little. The natural result of generosity is an internal brightness and joy that creates a wholesome and fertile mental environment for developing meditation.

Need a Ride to the monastery?

If you are looking for a ride to Vimutti Monastery, you can post your request on our ride sharing calendar. If you are planning to drive to

the monastery and have room for another person, check the calendar to see if someone needs a ride.

Click here to see [the carpooling calendar](#)

Free Firewood

Free pine firewood is available from the monastery land for anyone who would like to have it. Some is already prepared and some would need to be cut with a chainsaw.

Upcoming Events

Vimutti Buddhist Monastery and the Auckland Buddhist Vihara

Click on these links to find out more:

[Good Kamma Day](#), [Open Day](#), [Day of Peace](#)

April 21-25

Easter Retreat with Luang Por Piak
Vimutti Buddhist Monastery, Bombay

Friday, April 29 7:30pm

Dhamma Teachings with Luang Por Piak
The Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Rd., Mt. Wellington

May 7-14

Meditation Retreat: One World, One Truth, with Ajahn Chandako
Te Moata Retreat Centre, Tairua, Coromandel

Saturday, May 7 10:00am

Working Bee
The Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Rd., Mt. Wellington

Sunday, May 15 all day

Wesak Celebration
The Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Rd., Mt. Wellington

Saturday, May 21 3:00pm

Ceremony for enshrining Tipitaka, Buddhas and sacred items in the Vimutti Stupa

Vimutti Buddhist Monastery, Bombay

June 18-26

Meditation Retreat: Lake Cabin and Forest Retreat with Ajahn Chandako

Tendall's Lake Cabin, Northern Minnesota, USA

July 16

Beginning of the three month Rains Retreat

Vimutti Buddhist Monastery, Bombay

Every Sunday 10:00-11:00am (except Open Day)

Chi Kung lessons with Venerable Chang Shean

The Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Rd., Mt. Wellington

This meditation in movement is an outstanding way to relieve stress, balance energy and develop mindfulness.

Sister Chang Shean is a Taiwanese Bhikkhuni who offers these lessons freely on a donation basis. All proceeds go to the ATBA.

Every Sunday 3:00-4:30pm

Dhamma School

The Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Rd., Mt. Wellington

Give your children a good start in life with the ATBA Dhamma School. Available for any child or teenager from the ages of 5-18. Contact Benita 09 520-1392

Every Sunday, 7:30 pm

Meditation, chanting and listening to a Dhamma talk

The Auckland Buddhist Vihara, 29 Harris Rd., Mt. Wellington

Useful items to donate to the Monastery

A black and white printer

Small, medium or large sized brass or stone boxes for
placing smaller items within the stupa
Coffee table (unpainted wooden, used OK).
Chilly bin/cooler
Anyone who is skilled at framing large paintings and
photos
Goldfish for the monastery ponds

Anumodana

**We rejoice in the good kamma made by the following
people:**

Nacha for arranging the visas for Luang por Piak and those
accompanying him.

Nacha for offering the food for Luang Por Piak's retreat

John and Meth for stupa project management

John for organising the new carpet for the Vihara

George for computer and website assistance

Irene for managing the Buddhas being carved in Indonesia

Larry and Judy Loo for a stupa donation

Carol and Mary for proofreading

**By the power of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha,
may these offerings be a cause for you to realise
the freedom and peace of Nibbana.**

Download the ATBA Chanting

[Evening Chanting](#)

[The Buddha's Words on Loving-kindness, the Metta Sutta](#)

Carpooling

To make it easier for people to visit the monastery and to reduce your
carbon footprint, we have now set up a ridesharing system. If you

would like to come to Vimutti but do not have a vehicle, or you would like to share a ride and petrol costs with others, please have a look at the carpooling page of our website. Both people looking for a ride and people who wish to offer a ride can post information on the site. Ridesharing is environmentally friendly, economical and brings people together.

Click here to see [the carpooling calendar](#)

Definition

Vimutti: [Pali] Release, liberation, emancipation; freedom from the fabrications and conventions of the mind. The suttas distinguish between two kinds of liberation. Liberation through wisdom (*pañña-vimutti*) describes the fully enlightened mind of a Buddha or an Arahant. Liberation through awareness (*ceto-vimutti*) is used to describe either the unbounded but temporary liberation of mind in deep samadhi (*jhana*) or the supramundane state of samadhi in the completely purified mind of a Buddha or an Arahant.

Visit our Website

For complete information on Vimutti Buddhist Monastery and the ATBA, including maps, please see our website

www.vimutti.org.nz

We wish you all much benefit and happiness from practicing meditation and leading a good life.